

Thanksgiving Dinner and Local Vermont Turkey

By Scott Waterman, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

As the Thanksgiving holiday season approaches, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets and the Vermont Fresh Network (VFN) wish to remind those planning for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner that Vermont’s local turkey farms are ready to help. The time to order your local bird is now!

Vermont is home to more than a dozen turkey farms across the state, raising and producing local turkeys ready just in time for Thanksgiving and the holiday season. According to the National Turkey Federation, nearly 88 percent of Americans eat turkey at Thanksgiving. The average weight of turkeys purchased for Thanksgiving is 16 pounds, meaning that approximately 736 million



pounds of turkey were consumed in the United States during Thanksgiving in 2016. In Vermont, nearly 48,000 turkeys and chickens were produced in 2016.

To help locate your dream bird, check out Vermont Fresh Network’s Local Turkey Finder.

“A local turkey brings great joy to family and friends. Vermont is

lucky to have so many local food producers that provide a fresh bird and fresh ingredients each fall for the dinner table,” said Agency Secretary Anson Tebbetts. “We are thankful for all the farmers who feed us.”

The Vermont Fresh Network can help connect you to a local farm and farmer near you, for a fresh

Thanksgiving feast for your family. You can also find farm fresh dinner ingredients for your turkey dinner at the same time.

“Thanksgiving is a time for us to celebrate with our family, our friends and our farmers. A locally grown turkey and locally sourced Thanksgiving dinner offers the freshest ingredients for a truly delicious meal,” said Tara Pereira, Executive Director of the Vermont Fresh Network, “And food grown in Vermont pairs perfectly with our local wine and cider.”

Along with local turkey and produce, the Vermont Fresh Network can connect you with a local wine and cider pairing guide and a list of Vermont Thanksgiving-week farmers markets by visiting DigInVT.com — an interactive website for agricultural and culinary events and experiences in Vermont.

AGRiVIEW

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

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Inside This Issue

The View from 116 State Street Page 2

Kirby Mulch Co. Page 3

Evaluating the Future for Dairy Farms Page 4

The Soil Test Page 4

Myco-Phytoremediation Research Page 5

Seeking Grazing & Forage Service Providers Page 5

Produce Safety Bite: Soil Amendments. Page 7

Fantastic Farmer Page 8

Dairy Marketing and Branding Grantees Page 9

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News Page 10

Classifieds Page 11

Food System Plan: Racial Equity Page 13

Upcoming Grant Opportunities Page 14

Big E Success Page 16



Honoring Vermont's State Animal, the Morgan Horse

Recently, hundreds of equestrian lovers, historians and many others gathered at the UVM Morgan Horse Farm in Weybridge to celebrate the centennial of "Figure," a statue of the Morgan horse. Vermonter Justin Morgan, who owned Figure in the late 1700s, created the Morgan breed with Figure as its foundational sire. The life-size bronze statue of "Figure" stood tall on his 100th birthday, almost as if he were playing to the crowd.

Figure was erected in 1921 in honor of the Vermont Morgan horse. Since then, thousands of Morgans have been raised at the UVM Morgan Horse Farm. Multitudes of

people have visited this stunning farm as well. Figure can be found in photographs around the world. It's hard to leave the farm without snapping a picture standing next to this incredible Morgan.

The Morgan Horse is the Vermont State Animal, on par with maple and dairy as one of the iconic symbols of the Green Mountains. Through the years, the University of Vermont has been the keeper of this state

ambassador. We thank University of Vermont staff and leadership, and all the countless volunteers, who cherish the Vermont Morgan. Their work has made a difference in keeping this important breed strong in Vermont and around the world.

Horses and horse farmers also contribute to our Vermont economy. They keep our land open and spacious. Our heads turn when we see a horse grazing in a pasture or peering from a stable, iconic Vermont scenes. Horse shows and competitions bring people to new regions. Farmers buy hay from their neighbors, providing much needed revenue for other farmers who are also keeping land in production. Horses have led many to create businesses and support others. Whether it's bedding, feed, supplies, tourism or services, horses play a critical role in the health of our rural communities.

continued on page 15



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This Month's Recipe

Maple Nut Scones

Ingredients

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 tablespoons baking powder
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup heavy cream
1 large egg
1 teaspoon vanilla or maple extract
1 stick cold unsalted butter, cut into pieces
2 cups confectioners' sugar
1/4 cup heavy cream
1/4 cup maple syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 cup nuts chopped (walnut, pecan or not – your choice!)

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400° F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, sugar and salt.



3. In another bowl, slightly whisk together heavy cream, egg, and vanilla or maple extract.
4. By hand, use a pastry cutter to mix butter into the flour mixture until coarse crumbs form. (We use our stand mixer to do this job.) Add wet ingredients and using a wooden spoon (if by hand), combine until fully incorporated and mostly smooth. Be careful not to over mix. The dough might not come together into one big ball, but into separate lumps, which is just fine. Turn dough out onto your work surface and

using your hands, press into a 7-inch circle. Using a pizza cutter, cut circle into 8 equal triangles (like a pizza). Place triangles onto the prepared baking sheet. Place in the oven and bake for 15-16 minutes or until edges are slightly brown. Remove from the oven transfer scones to wire racks to cool completely.

5. Once scones have mostly cooled, combine confectioners' sugar, heavy cream, maple syrup and vanilla in a medium bowl. Whisk until smooth and no lumps remain. Spoon desired amount of glaze over the scones. Sprinkle with chopped nuts if desired. Let sit for 5 minutes and then enjoy!

Note: We have been told that these can be kept wrapped for up to three days. We have not had the problem at our house.

WORKING LANDS ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE PROJECT FEATURE

Kirby Mulch Company

By Anne Massie, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

Kirby Mulch Company is led by Heath Bunnell, a longtime business owner who has over twenty years of experience in the logging and forestry industry. Heath values sustainable forestry management, and that is reflected in his certification as a Master Logger. The Master Logger certification recognizes logging individuals and companies that meet responsible forest management standards. In addition, Heath received the prestigious New Hampshire Logger of the Year award in 2019.

The Kirby Mulch Company received \$130,000 in Working Lands funding to produce high-quality mulch and soil blends from wood byproducts for use in horticulture, landscape, roadside construction, and residential applications, as well as for processing kiln-dried firewood. Heath is excited about the market-level impact potential of his new value-added company.

“The Working Lands grant supported the start-up phase of Kirby Mulch Company and helped us to meet the demand for wholesale mulch. The funding to purchase two live-floor trailers allows us to move large quantities of mulch to wholesale buyers such as farm stands and apple and berry farms, thus significantly expanding our markets in our first year of operation. Without the Working Lands grant, we would have put off the purchase of the live-floor trailers, likely three to five years, until the retail sales supported expansion into wholesale mulch delivery,” noted Heath.

In the biomass markets, legislative uncertainty impacts the demand for low-grade wood; examples include new federal E-log rules for short-haul trucking and the universal recycling



Heath Bunnell, owner, Kirby Mulch Company.

and composting law. Kirby Mulch Company hopes to be a valuable link in the local forestry supply chain as a receiver of critical wood byproducts. In addition, Kirby Mulch Company seeks to strengthen the overall Northeast Kingdom Forest sector, which is currently at risk of forest

fragmentation, by creating a new wood byproduct market.

The COVID-19 pandemic offered a unique pivot opportunity for Kirby Mulch Company. “During the pandemic, homeowners focused on gardening and landscaping instead of summer travel plans, so the retail

and even wholesale demand for mulch and compost products were high in our first year of operation,” remarked Heath.

With the help of Working Lands funding, Kirby Mulch has worked through the business start-up process of establishing accounts and a line of credit with a local financial institution, purchasing machinery, hiring workers, learning about mulch and compost product options, and developing a business website, among other crucial tasks. In addition, Kirby Mulch is exploring new markets to sell kiln-dried firewood, mulch, and compost, most of which are produced onsite at Kirby Mulch Company. As the company enters its second year of operation, Kirby Mulch Company continues to bring its vision of being an essential part of the Vermont forestry economy to fruition.

Governor Phil Scott Announces Winners of Over \$3.6 Million In Downtown and Village Center Tax Incentives

Governor Phil Scott announced funding to support 28 rehabilitation and revitalization projects in 22 of Vermont’s designated downtown and village centers. These awards will help generate over \$83 million in building improvements and public infrastructure to support local businesses, create new housing opportunities and incentivize investments that will improve the resiliency and vitality of Vermont’s community centers.

Based on the success of this program, Governor Scott has proposed increasing available credits each year since coming to office. And with support from the Vermont



Brandon McFarland and Travis Samuels, Zion Growers was one of the tax incentive awardees pictured here with Governor Phil Scott.

Legislature, the cap on these credits has been raised from \$2.4 million to \$3 million over the last five years.

For a complete list of projects visit the Department of Housing and Community Development website.

New Program to Help Vermont Dairy Farm Families Evaluate Their Options for the Future

Free Intra-Family Mediation and Counseling Available to Vermont Dairy Farms

By Matt Strassberg, Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program

A new program is available to Vermont dairy farmers to assist them with conversations about the future operations of the farm. This comes at a time when dairy farmers have been paid below the cost of production for many years, while their equity gets smaller and smaller. As a result, dairy farmers may be considering transitioning to another farming model. The options can be overwhelming. It can be even more complicated when the farm is a family affair.



The Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program (VTAMP) now offers free intra-family mediation and counseling for dairy farms in Vermont facing financial challenges, with support from the Working Lands Enterprise Fund.

VTAMP can help dairy farmers to:

- Feel confident that they're investigating all options for

the future of the farm.

- Improve their farm's financial situation while keeping business and family relations intact.
- Start a conversation about what's next with family members or partners who may have different visions for the future.

VTAMP provides mediation services to all types of Vermont farmers on a variety

of issues including USDA programs, water quality, farm debts, farmer/neighbor issues, family farm transitions, pesticides, and more.

VTAMP recently expanded their services to offer free intra-family mediation and counseling to help Vermont dairy farms reach consensus among family members and/or business partners about future operations of their dairy farm.

"Dairy farmers will receive counseling, mediation, and financial and technical advice to develop options and make informed decisions about the future direction and viability of their farms," Director of VTAMP, Matt Strassberg said. "Mediation can be a useful tool to navigate difficult

conversations and hopefully reach consensus on the best path forward. We are pleased to provide this service free to farmers and other members of the agricultural community in Vermont."

The project is a partnership with the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board's (VHCB) Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program, which provides business and financial planning support.

For more information or to enroll visit www.vtamp.org where you can fill out the online request form, or contact Matt Strassberg at the Vermont Agricultural Mediation Program at (802) 583-1100 ext. 101 or by email: matts@emcenter.org

Back to the Basics: The Soil Test

by Jennifer Alexander-Poultney Mettowee
Conservation District

I am often asked what seed can be planted, or what fertilizer can be purchased, to increase yield, but when I respond by asking if they have a soil test, I am given a blank look. Ok, so how do you know if you need 5lbs of phosphorus or 30lbs? 220lbs of potassium or 100lbs? How do you know what you need if you don't know what you've got?

Do you really want to spend \$40-65 an acre in seed, plus equipment costs,

fuel, and your time, to plant a field when you are simply guessing what nutrients are there? I had a person say "But Jennifer, when I plow under the existing 'hay' crop, I will get a nutrient boost from incorporating that crop." Yes, you will. But do you really want to invest days working the land then planting, and then pray for rain but not too much rain, worry about bird and insect predation on the seed and seedlings, weeds reestablishing before the grass and legumes germinate, all before you take a simple soil test to know what your soil

has to offer? What will you do come year 2 when that "nutrient boost" is cut in half or non-existent? Especially now that you have depleted the soil even further...

Some think that rather than plowing, no-till and inter-seeding is the way to go. That's great. But no-till is challenging enough without the added obstacles of poor soil fertility and low pH, both of which affect seed germina-

tion and seedling vigor.

A soil test can also indicate if there is something funky going on in the soil. The results listed below show us that the phosphorus and potassium levels are low, pH is OK, except for the pasture which is low, and all have great organic matter for the soil types. Then your eye is drawn to the aluminum levels. Wowzer! While low P2O5 and K2O are not

helping matters, one must wonder if aluminum toxicity is affecting this farm's yields. How would the farmer know about the high aluminum without a soil test?

Many Conservation Districts and UVM offices have soil probes that they will either rent or lend you. Heck, a decent probe can be bought on Amazon and shipped to your house in 5-7

continued on page 7

Crop	Organic Matter %	pH	Buffer pH	Mod. Morgan P. ppm	Mod. Morgan K. ppm	Mod. Morgan Al. ppm
Grass Hay	5.77	6.34	6.24	3.4	28.2	104.3
Corn	5.32	6.91	6.44	5.4	42.5	72.2
Pasture	7.36	5.67	6.02	2.3	170.3	102.7

Ongoing Myco-Phytoremediation Research at Shelburne Farms

By Jess Rubin, UVM, and
Amelia Bruss, Poultney
Mettowee NRCD

Shelburne Farms is hosting ongoing research by Jess Rubin of MycoEvolve in collaboration with the UVM Plant Soil Science Department to explore whether land managers can facilitate phosphorus removal and increase pollinator habitat through restoring riparian buffers by manually removing nonnative buckthorn, planting polycultures of native riparian plants inoculated with mycorrhizae, and cyclically coppicing some of those plants. The research is funded by NESARE (ONE19-335), the Lintilhac Foundation, The Gund Institute for the Environment, and UVM College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

In late July of 2021 Jess Rubin, Mike Bald of Got Weeds? and Dana Bishop of Shelburne Farms hosted a workshop at the pilot research site where community members and professional land tenders learned about the history of the site, the research process, and their current findings. As attendees learned about the cultural and geological history of Shelburne Farms, Jess Rubin explained that to properly restore functions of a site you need to know the history of the land “before the wounds.” The research

site on Shelburne Farms is considered a critical source area due to high phosphorus levels in the soil and its likelihood of runoff leading directly into the Orchard Cove section of the lake. High phosphorus levels are a result of more than two hundred years of management practices including forest removal, heavy grazing, application of super phosphate fertilizer, and upland compost presence that the farm has not yet been able to remediate. According to Rubin, restoring the site to what it was in pre-colonial times (both ecologically and socially) is not possible but that reconciling the damage that was done and moving the system towards repair is possible.

Mike Bald mentored Rubin in invasive buckthorn removal to start this project,

which involved careful planning and the assistance of community volunteers. Mike Bald suggests cutting back buckthorn at least three times in two seasons prevents it from regrowing while the other plants become established.

Rubin and her team are exploring how coppicing (severe pruning) of riparian buffer shrubs may be a critical tool to facilitate removal of phosphorus from a site. Throughout spring and summer, fungi, microbes and plants uptake nutrients through their roots and into their trunks, leaves, and branches. By harvesting above ground tissues in late summer it may be possible to capture and remove these nutrients before they return to the roots and into the soil/water. Previously in this study coppicing was practiced during the late



Common Buckthorn

winter pruning season so it is not yet known how pruning in late summer will affect plant longevity and phosphorus removal concentrations.

To begin honoring the cultural practices that originally took place on this land, any coppiced willow from the site not needed for analysis will be offered to the Abenaki people for use in basket weaving.

This study is only in its second year and hence is too early for any conclusive results. Some of the data sets shared in the workshop indicated statistically significant difference of increased plant species richness in the restored treatments vs. the controlled treatment of buckthorn and decreased total phosphorus soil concentrations in the mycorrhizally inoculated vs. the uninoculated restored plots. However, those numbers were taken from the first year and a half during which the

mycorrhizae may not yet have fully colonized, the plants were not yet fully established, and the soil was likely still recovering from the disturbance caused during the restoration installation. Previous studies indicate and Rubin suggests that a minimum of 10 years of data are needed to observe patterns which provide clearer conclusions.

Some of the team’s questions that guide next steps in their research include:

- How much phosphorus can be extracted annually without affecting regeneration?
- How do mycorrhizae influence succession?
- Do phosphorus concentrations in the soil affect plant diversity?

To find out more about this exciting work contact Jess Rubin at Jessica.Rubin@uvm.edu and visit the research plot at Shelburne Farms!

Some of the Plants Involved in this Myco-Phytoremediation Pilot Research:

American Elm*	Nannyberry*
Arrowood*	NE Aster*
Basswood†	Red Osier Dogwood*
Black Willow†	Shagbark Hickory†
Blue Flag Iris*	Red Maple*
Blue Verbena*	Silver Maple*
Boneset*	Speckled Alder†
Buttonbush*	Swamp White Oak*
Elderberry*	Switchgrass*
Gravel Root*	Turtlehead*
Longhair Sedge*	Wild Ginger*
Meadow Willow†	Winterberry*

* Partners with *Endomycorrhizae* (which penetrate into plant roots)
† Partners with *Ectomycorrhizae* (which grow around plant roots)

Seeking Service Providers for Grazing and Forage Technical Assistance Cohorts

by Ollie Cultrara, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) seeks multiple contractors to offer localized cohort-based technical assistance for dairy farmers considering transitioning their farm to a grass-based production model, enhancing the production of home-grown forages, and/or utilizing alternative farm management strategies not typically found in the United States dairy sector.

Technical assistance will focus on: successful grazing (forage health, herd nutritional needs, supplies required), home-grown forage enhancement, or alternative management training and business assistance (cash flow analysis, market differentiation and feasibility if producing a value-added product, capital required for any improvements). Topics of particular interest include, but are not limited to: seasonal or alternative milking schedules; transitioning tie-stall

barns into free stall or bedded pack facilities while retaining access to pasture; sharemilking; and group housing for calf-rearing.

Service providers will recruit localized cohorts of at least five Northeast dairy farms to participate in on-farm group and individual business and technical assistance over

18-24 months. Participating farms must be located within the Northeast region. Once a farmer has developed a plan with the technical assistance provider, they will be eligible to apply for grant funds to assist in making necessary improvements to increase the likelihood of a successful and sustained farm

management improvements. Proposals will be accepted until November 19, 2021. Funding is available for four to eight project contracts ranging from \$75,000 - \$150,000. For more information, visit agriculture.vermont.gov/transition-grazing-cohort-ta-contract or contact Laura.Ginsburg@vermont.gov

For Agricultural Events and Resources Visit:

- The VT Agency of Agriculture Events Calendar: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/calendar>
- UVM Extension Events Calendars: https://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension_event_calendars
- Vermont Farm to Plate Events Calendar: <https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/events>
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Events Calendar: <http://nofavt.org/events>
- DigIn Vermont Events Calendar: <https://www.diginvt.com/events/>
- Agricultural Water Quality Regulations: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations>
- Agency of Ag's Tile Drain Report now available here: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/tile-drainage>
- VAAFM annual report available here: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about_us/budgets_reports
- Farm First: Confidential help with personal or work-related issues. More info call: 1-877-493-6216 any-time day or night, or visit: www.farmfirst.org
- Vermont AgrAbility: Free service promoting success in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families. More info call 1-800-639-1522, email: info@vcil.org or visit: www.vcil.org.

For more agricultural events visit our *Funding Opportunities & Resources for Businesses* webpage at: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities



A cohort of dairy farmers participate in a pasture walk as part of the Connecticut River Watershed's Transition to Grazing project.

Dairy Business Viability & Technical Assistance Grant Open Now

by Ollie Cultrara, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) is now accepting applications through the Dairy Business Viability and Technical Assistance Grant Program until December 7, 2021.

This program will provide grants for coordinated technical assistance projects to benefit multiple dairy producers and processors by enhancing business operations and strengthening markets. Eligible applicants include dairy processors, producer associations, distributors, retailers, and technical

service providers in the Northeast region. Technical assistance could include business consulting, marketing and branding assistance, enhancing distribution channels, product or byproduct innovation, or market diversification. Assistance may also include delivering education and information through websites, webinars, conferences, training, tours, or field days.

Awards will range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 with a 25% cash or in-kind match requirement. For more information, visit agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic/activities/dairy-business-viability-technical-assistance-grant or contact Julia.Scheier@vermont.gov



Produce Safety Bite: Soil Amendments

On-farm food safety tips for fruit & vegetable growers

By Ollie Cultrara, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Many fruits and vegetables are eaten raw, so it is important to protect produce from being contaminated with harmful pathogens beginning at the farm. Soil amendments of animal origin, like manure, are important for soil fertility but can also contain pathogenic microorganisms. The following produce safety practices can help you identify and reduce contamination risks from soil amendments.

Know your source

Soil amendments from animal sources include manure; blood, bone, or feather meal; worm castings; and fish emulsion. These amendments can contain pathogens such as *Salmonella* or *E. coli*, but not all have the same level of risk. Amendments that undergo validated, controlled treatment processes such as aerobic composting

or heat treatment, to reduce the presence of harmful microorganisms, are considered lower risk. Untreated amendments, such as raw or aged manure, have a higher risk of containing pathogens.

Handle with care

Locate manure and compost piles downslope from fields where produce is grown and/or separate piles from growing areas with a vegetated buffer. Covering piles can also prevent potential pathogens from spreading via runoff, wind, or wildlife. Keep treated amendments, such as finished compost, separate from untreated amendments like raw manure. To prevent cross-contamination, use dedicated equipment and clothing when handling soil amendments and/or clean equipment and clothing between handling amendments and produce.

Apply appropriately

Pathogens can survive in soil for long periods. Maximize the time between applying amendments and



A pile of organic material undergoing the process of aerobic composting at a compost facility.

harvesting produce. The National Organic Program’s 90/120 day harvest interval guidelines are a good starting point. Apply amendments in a way that minimizes potential contact with the edible portion of the crop during and after application. Plan applications of higher risk amendments like manure for lower-risk field rotations, such as cover crops or produce that is rarely eaten raw, like winter squash.

Next steps

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule

(PSR) sets a standard for preventing contamination from biological soil amendments of animal origin. Whether or not your farm is subject to the PSR requirements, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture’s Produce Program can help

you take the next step in developing a culture of food safety on your farm. Contact the Vermont Produce Program at AGR.FSMA@vermont.gov or (802) 461-5128. For more information, visit agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram.

Soil Tests

continued from page 4

days if you’re so inclined. Google how to take a proper soil test or ask your local Conservation District or UVM Extension personnel, then take a soil test after your last harvest. The sample can be sent to either the

UVM Environmental Testing Lab or to Dairy One for a Modified Morgans analysis. A basic soil test at Dairy One is \$9, while the more comprehensive test with micro-nutrient values is \$15 at both UVM and Dairy One. Results will take an average of seven to fourteen days to receive. Once you have those

results, voila! You can make an informed decision about what the next step is for bringing that field back! For more information contact the Poultney Mettowee Conservation District, Jennifer@pmnrcd.org or by phone 802-558-6470.

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: BeaBetter Food Company of Chester Vermont to process, package, buy and sell, bargain, and transport butter within the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets
Dairy Section Office
116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

All written comments must be received by November 30, 2021.
At that time the Agency will make a determination as to whether a hearing will be held. If we determine that a hearing is necessary and you wish to attend please write to the above address attention Dairy Section.

Vermont Barn Painting Project Hosts Fantastic Farmer

By Scott Waterman,
VT Agency of
Agriculture, Food and
Markets

By the side of a freshly painted Vermont historic barn on Pudding Hill Road in Lyndonville, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Vermont Department of Labor (VDOL) celebrated the Vermont Barn Painting Project and the many partners who have collaborated to assist Vermont barn owners in preserving these historic structures on Vermont's working lands.

The owner of the Pudding Hill Road barn, Eric Paris of Tamarlane Farm, applied to the Vermont Barn Painting Project last year, hoping to restore his barn to its original glory and preserve it for the future. With the help of the A. Pizzagalli Family Farm Fund, ReSOURCE YouthBuild, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Vermont Works for Women and the Vermont Community Foundation, the barn was painted and refreshed this summer through the project.

"This project, while importantly helping to restore and preserve these wonderful Vermont barns, also helps provide skills and experience to some of our young Vermonters," said Vermont Department



of Labor Commissioner Michael Harrington. "Helping preserve our state's heritage helps preserve our future too."

Taking place alongside this celebration was the announcement of the first Vermont Fantastic Farmer award. Cameron Clark, an organic dairy owner and operator from Williston was chosen as the first Fantastic Farmer award recipient for her commitment to sustainable agriculture, land-use diversity and her eighth gen-



Cameron Clark

eration family farm.

"We are committed to keeping our land in the family and as working lands, in the most low-impact natural ways possible," Clark said. "I firmly believe organic production is the best way for us to do this and maintain for years to come while using our lands resources to their potential, including grazing forage, maple production and timber."

Behind these efforts is the A. Pizzagalli Family Farm Fund. For years, Angelo Pizzagalli has worked with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture to paint barns in Caledonia County. Now with the collaboration of the VDOL Barn Painting Project, barns across Vermont have the opportunity to apply for a fresh coat of paint.

"The goal of the A. Pizzagalli Family Farm Fund, as evidently was accomplished here, is to preserve our precious barns and to improve their roadside appeal across Vermont, for the locals and for those who visit our amazing State," said Lisa Pizzagalli. "Additionally,

we hope that those who work on these barns found it a valuable experience and learned some new technical and other skills that they are able to take with them in their next endeavor. Supporting our state's hard-working agricultural entrepreneurs and the youth that help

build our state's economy is vital to our state's future."

"Angelo Pizzagalli and the A. Pizzagalli Family Farm Fund have helped support our working lands families for many years. Now, we can see the fruits of their labors, from beautiful red barns to quality agriculture practices and products, and the skills and experience provided to our young Vermonters," said Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts. "We want to thank Angelo and his family for what they have done, and what they continue to do to support our state."

The Pizzagalli family also funded the High Quality Milk Award winners announced earlier this year. These awards acknowledge the hard work of individual dairy producers to sustain a high-quality, healthy dairy product for consumers.

After a successful summer, the Vermont Department of Labor Barn Painting Project, with support from the A. Pizzagalli Family Farm Fund and partners, will continue the program next year and beyond. Any Vermont barn owner wishing to apply should Visit the Vermont Barn Painting Project to learn more about the history of the effort, and to apply.

To find out more about the High Quality Milk Awards, visit the Vermont Dairy Industry Association.

To nominate or apply for the Vermont Fantastic Farmer Award, please visit: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/fantastic-farmer-award>

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A quarterly newsletter from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets' Food Safety and Consumer Protection Division

If you eat food or purchase commodities at retail in Vermont, you will benefit from quarterly updates from the Agency's Food Safety and Consumer Protection Division, comprising the Dairy, Animal Health, Meat Inspection, Weights and Measures, and Agricultural Products Sections. Get a glimpse into how this specialized team ensures safe food and fair markets for all Vermonters! To subscribe, visit here: <https://vermont.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7858fdf10d2a4e7ed78a12245&id=6612b3a6ff>

Announcing Dairy Business Marketing and Branding Grantees

by Ollie Cultrara, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) is pleased to announce four Vermont recipients of the Dairy Business Marketing & Branding Grant. In total, 13 value-added dairy processors across the Northeast were awarded \$437,653 in funds, with grants ranging \$15,000 to \$50,000, to access professional marketing and branding services to elevate their dairy businesses.

Bridgman Hill Farm of Greensboro Bend was awarded \$38,275 to refresh the Oak Knoll brand of fluid goat milk. Co-owners Ryan Andrus, Annie Rowden, and the Cellars at Jasper Hill purchased the Oak Knoll brand, goat herd, and processing equipment from the owners of Oak Knoll Goat Dairy which operated for over 30 years in Windsor. Bridgman Hill Farm will build on the brand's existing sales and distribution relationships throughout the Northeast while working with a marketing firm to create a brand strategy to achieve increased sales outlets and volume. The firm will conduct extensive market research and consider Oak Knoll's core values and beliefs, value propositions, and voice to develop a new visual brand that speaks to consumers.

J&R Family Farm of Orleans was awarded \$15,840 to hire contractors to develop the cheesemaker's



Photo courtesy of Lulu Artisan Ice Cream

Ice cream pints in the freezer at lulu in Vergennes, VT.

business plan, marketing plan, and marketing materials. The plans will incorporate current conditions, future vision, and tactics for reaching production, marketing, and sales goals. A contractor

will develop original marketing materials such as photography, brochures, shelf cards, cheese curd product labels, and website. The project aims to help the business grow milk processing volume;

wholesale, farm stand, and online sales; and total revenue.

lulu Artisan Ice Cream (Harmack LLC) of Vergennes was awarded \$30,000 to work with marketing and branding consultants and a graphic designer to redesign packaging and develop marketing and promotions materials to increase sales of their farm-to-spoon ice cream products. Lulu Artisan Ice Cream's goal for the project is to develop new sales channels and accelerate sales growth through online, wholesale, and brick and mortar sales of pints and ice cream cakes.

Ploughgate Creamery of Fayston was awarded \$24,800 to enhance their website and digital marketing strategy with the goal of increasing direct-to-consumer sales. Ploughgate Creamery will work with a digital marketing agency and a web designer to re-design, optimize, and re-launch their website. The digital marketing strategy will include search engine optimization, email marketing, and retargeting to drive traffic to the website and convert traffic into online sales.

Vermont Vector-borne Disease Update 2021

By Patti Casey, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Mosquitoes

This year was yet another anomalous year for our mosquito surveillance program, although the wide variations we're seeing in annual mosquito numbers may be the new normal for the northeast. Our 2021 mosquito collections yielded a little more than double our comparable 5-year averages and a little more than four times what we collected in 2020, which saw persistent drought conditions that suppressed mosquito numbers. This year started out dry and we thought we might be spared again, but wet conditions starting in late July and early August resulted in a tremendous boost in floodplain and woodland pool species. These species were abundant statewide much later than usual and persisted much longer than normal. Our primary Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) vector species saw a spike in numbers late in the season. Despite high numbers of mosquitoes, our lab testing found no arboviruses in any of our specimens this year, mirroring 2020's results. We continue to test all applicable specimens for EEE and West Nile virus (WNV), although we have cut back on our surveillance for the primary vectors of WNV at the request of the VT Department of

Health. It is likely that WNV is still circulating widely in certain mosquito populations in Vermont.

Ticks

We have completed our 2021 spring tick surveillance programs and will start fall collections mid-October when mosquito season wraps up. To date, our numbers of Black-Legged (Deer) ticks (BLT) are about average. We have not had this year's ticks tested for pathogens yet. The pathogen that causes Lyme disease continues to be present in about 53% of the BLT found in Vermont, with other pathogens occurring much more rarely.

This year we initiated a phenology study in which we collect ticks from three sites (north, central, and south) once monthly to determine when different life stages of ticks emerge in Vermont. This information will be helpful in predicting precisely when Vermonters' tick exposure is greatest.

As always, self-protection is the key to staying healthy while enjoying all of Vermont's glorious outdoor activities. Cover your skin as much as possible, use an EPA-approved insect repellent, avoid dawn and dusk exposure, and do a daily tick check if you're outdoors.

For more information, visit www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov or www.HealthVermont.gov

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,
University of Vermont
Extension
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, or
vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu
www.vvbga.org

Reports From The Field

(Westminster) Once it got going, the rain never seemed to stop this summer. A loose early tally shows we're probably a couple hundred thousand dollars down from last year's gross. The losses: all the celeriac is gone, along with two-thirds of our winter squash crop. None of the storage red cabbage is going to make it, although green cabbage is doing okay. We haven't cut any broccoli since early July and won't. There have been a few dry days but hardly enough to get our hay in besides a couple of cuts.

But on the bright side... kale and collards are holding steady, and we have great root crops. Carrots, parsnips, turnips, beets, radishes, and rutabagas all look great. Our

sweet corn – other than the two acres accidentally harrowed up – has done well.

As manure has gotten scarce, we've been putting on more cover crops, especially nitrogen-fixing crops like peas and vetch, along with rye, wheat, and tillage radish. An Esch seeder rented from NRCS in Cheshire County, N.H., has allowed us to do a better job of seeding several varieties of cover crop at once.

(Huntington) Hot and dry June followed by cool and wet July seems to have led to interesting potato outcomes. Tuber size is generally huge, but it seems the plants reduced tuber set during June's hot and dry, so yields are very good but not excellent.

Onion crop has more Fusarium than I've ever seen before - I assume from the wet July, but I'm not sure. Not a huge cull rate, but slower packout as we have to put an eye on the basal plate of each bulb as we are packing.

Fall brassicas are all ahead of schedule, but we're just pretending the cabbage isn't ready to harvest since we have more pressing, frost-sensitive crops yet to bring in. Winter squash did surprisingly well, given the amount of transplant mortality we had in our main butternut variety

following planting during a cold windy spell in early June.

We've been trying to raise prices, with many inputs going up significantly in the past year and more increases on the horizon. I don't want to be caught selling our product at artificially deflated prices given what it's going to cost to put a crop in the ground next year.

(Rochester) Raspberries are liking the relatively warm fall and are still going strong. There is no frost in the forecast for the next week at least, in fact no temperature lower than 48 degrees predicted in that seven days. So, it appears we will have raspberries to pick through the long weekend at least. Sales of syrup and honey at the farm stand are stronger than ever and so are market sales. Looking forward to some down time as the end of the season approaches... but not yet! Still picking berries while the sun shines.

(Grand Isle) It is a nice time of year with the focus on harvesting and no longer on weeding and cultivating. This year's onions are the largest in size we have ever grown. We have settled on growing on white plastic after years of trying silver and black. We have them drying in the dark with great air flow. Flower sales have been strong both wholesale and retail. Perhaps there is a greater need for color and brightness in this time of Covid blues. We are looking around at all the fall clean-up chores and wonder how we will get them completed with the limited size of our current crew. We are making lists of ideas for next

year and thinking about a few crops we may drop altogether.

(Stowe) I lost more than a third of pumpkin and gourd plants this year. Some of the casualties are not much bigger now than when they were transplanted out last June. Others succumbed to wilt. Here's my theory: I had a bumper crop of winter rye this year. It was plowed under and harrowed 3 weeks before planting out transplants grown in peat pots. But those 3 weeks were extremely dry, and I wonder if the allelopathic compounds in the rye roots never had a chance to decompose. Each transplant was watered in with a fungicide and fertilizer mix when planted and each had a dedicated irrigation source. Yet they just sat there. After the dry period the plants continued to do nothing during the cool, wet days which followed. The survivors finally took off once we got into the 90° days of August.

I planted 1/3 less area of potatoes than last year and got 1/3 higher total yield. CPBs were rampant earlier in the year and it took daily inspections and hand picking to control. Bintje was OK. Fenway Red had misshapen tubers and lots of Rhizoctonia. Gold Rush was outstanding in size, quality, clean tubers, no hollow heart.

Replanted Baltic Rose from last year's crop and it was beautiful, heavy yield, clean, smooth skin tubers. Finally, the winner, Huckleberry Gold, replanted from last year's leftovers. Was the best storage spud of any variety I've ever grown in 30 years here. Tall upright

plants with gorgeous purple flowers were the largely untouched by the CPB. Good size, smooth tubers. Very low carbs and high level of antioxidants in the skin. Only downside was the relatively low yield per plant.

Powdery mildew on cucurbits had good control using LAL Stop G46 biological fungicide. Tank mixed with chlorothalonil or propiconazole on the ornamental varieties. Still largely disease free as of start of October.

Exceptional crops this year: strawberries, raspberries, celeriac, peppers, eggplant, cauliflower, asparagus, parsnips.

(Westminster West) Heading into our last month of sales (mostly) and the end of outdoor farmers' market, then the indoor one starts. Still busy harvesting turnips, hemp, carrots, rutabagas, kale etc. oh and potatoes! Winter squash crop almost sold out already, which is a record but only due to such a poor yield from all the rains. A few varieties have done well regardless of the weather and the new introductions such as Autumn Frost did great, and they are selling.

Preparing the garlic field and hope to start planting mid-month, about the same amount as this year but adding soft necks to our mix. Cover crops look great and always so satisfying to see lush green growth this time of year. We have some major changes coming up such as closing down our spring plant wholesale business, due to life issues, I am offering up our accounts to any seriously

continued on page 12



BUSINESS PLANNING
BUSINESS VALUATION
TRANSFERS & SUCCESSIONS
TAX PLANNING & PREPARATION

LAND & FARM
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

B BASSETTE
Real Estate Group
802-457-2244 (office)



KEVIN CHANNELL Kevin@farmandforestservices.com
802-249-7384 www.farmandforestservices.com

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad in *Agriview* sign up to be a paid subscriber — visit our website: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/vaafm-news/agriview/advertising-agriview>

Email: Ag.agriview@vermont.gov, phone: 802-828-1619. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month for next month's issue. Example: January 1st deadline for February issue.

Cattle

Four registered Jersey heifers: Well grown, bred to grade Jersey bull. Due to calve Oct, 11,17,20 and Nov 2. Heifers will be 26, 25, and 2 at 24 months of age when calving. \$1,150 each. Bradford VT 802-222-5123 (7)

30 – 40 Jersey Cows. High components, low cell count, grass milk certified, OAD. Contact Joe and Emily in Charlotte, VT. (802) 425-4528 or doneganfamilyfarm@gmail.com (7)

Now boarding heifers and beef cattle! If labor's hard to find or you're short on feed, let us board your animals. 300 lbs and up with minimum group size of 50. Fed haylage or mix of haylage and corn silage, your choice. Excellent facilities in a free stall barn with slatted floors, comfort stalls and fans. Rate is \$1.50-2.00 per day per head. References available upon request. Call 802-533-2984. (9)

Certified Organic Ayrshire and Jersey herd for sale. On test and registered. Over 20 very, very good cows either milking or due. Very calm, well-mannered herd raised with kids and other animals. Currently receiving mainly pasture, with very little grain. (802) 234-9588 house phone or (802) 855-3546 - cell ask for Jimmy. (9)

Black Angus heifers and bull calves for sale. Contact 802-558-8196 for more information. (10)

Organic grass-fed Jersey fresh or springing cows or heifers wanted. 802-645-0865 (10)

Equipment

Pequea Woodsman portable wood saw PTO driven hydraulic pump on 3 point hitch with 30 inch saw blade. \$1500. OBO. PTO driven Four foot hydraulic wood splitter on three point hitch. \$2000. Will negotiate 802-893-2263 (7)

2 Forage wagons-Badger and Gehl 980 each with very good roof. 2 Gehl Hi-Throw Blowers, 1 John Deere 7000 four row corn planter for seeding only. 1 cultivator 4 row. 1 Gehl 860 two row corn chopper with two heads-new gathering chains for 1 head, still in box. 2 silo unloaders 16' Hanson Surface drive, Volumatic III ring drive. All equipment was serviced and ready to use last fall. Farm has moved away from corn due to weather issues. Please call Joe 1-802 595-5267 (7)

Ford L 8000 tandem dump truck 19ft rack. Hyd dump pump with tail gate, electric automatic tarp good tires and body. New batteries 213,000 miles \$17,500. 802-265-4589 (7)

Boumatic pipeline 80 stalls, 320 ft, 2 inch stainless steel, control box and receiver jar,\$1500.00 or best offer. Please call (802)868-2285 leave message.(9)

Doda separator for sale: with new screens, excellent shape, used very little, \$20,000 OBRO. Bulk milk tanks for sale: 4000 gallon Boumatic Dari Kool, excellent condition, \$24,000 OBRO; 1500 gallon DEC, also excellent condition \$8000. Double 10 Boumatic parlor for sale: reel, front

exit with ATO and meters; auto ID and sort gate; excellent shape-\$30,000 OBRO. Delaval VMS robots-with ID, computer, 2 air compressors, vacuum pump, 4 sort gates; will need new rubber parts; \$100,000 for all 4 or \$30,000 each. Call 802-533-2984 (9)

WIC 52 feed cart. Used only 11 months. Has TMR beaters and is in excellent condition. \$5200.00 For pics and info call 802 535 4756 or email labmanvt@gmail.com (9)

2001 F350, low miles, setup for Fisher plow, electric brake, runs good. \$3000 Call 948-2774 (9)

Potato planter – Spedo “Baby” Automatic potato planter, new in 2016, 5 acres of use. Great shape, Always under cover. Spedo Potato Digger for 25 hp or less, new in 2016, 5 acres of use. Excellent condition, always under cover. Both pieces can be viewed on video at OESCOinc.com Sold as a pair only \$4,600, 20% off price of new. Sprayer – Rears Pak Tank, 100 gallon, boom covers 10 feet, diaphragm pump, high pressure hand-held hose for spraying trees. Excellent condition, rebuilt in 2016 by Orchard Equipment and Supply, less than 10 acres use. Price – \$2,400, 20% off purchase price. Charlie Siegchrist - 802-878-2607 or siegchristbarberfarm@gmail.com (10)

General

Red raspberry plants, high producing – produce twice a year. Bare root \$2.00. Potted \$8.00. 802-323-8787 (7)

Hay, Feed & Forage

Excellent quality first cut wrapped round bales; baleage. Shelburne VT Call Andy 802-598-6060. Analysis available upon request.

Organic haylage 12% protein \$45 per ton, 15% protein \$55 per ton. 802-537-2435

4x4 round balage mixed grains



cut late June. \$30 802-325-3707

1st cut 4x5 round bales. Don Pettis, 802-265-4566.

Certified Organic First Cut Wrapped Round Bales for sale. Clover, Timothy and mixed grasses. Test samples and delivery available. Call Matt 802-558-3879.

Vetch & rye seeds for sale, mixed in 50 lb. bags, \$1/lb. certified by Vermont Organic Farmers.Thornhill Farm, 198 Taylor Road, Greensboro Bend, VT 05842, todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com, 802.441.3176

2021 first cut \$4.00 At barn in Ryegate. Steve 802-584-4450.

Hay for sale: 1st cut organic round bales. Randolph Center. Call John at 522-8798

Certified organic first cut wrapped round bales for sale – cut by mid June, good sized and well made. Asking \$50/each with 200 bales available. Beidler Family Farm, Randolph Center Contact: 802-728-5601 or brentbeidler@gmail.com.

Excellent quality first, second, and third cut wrapped round bales for sale. First cut by June 1, dry. \$50.00/bale Please call 802-454-7198

1st, 2nd & 3rd cut haylage and corn silage for sale at the bunk. Call Peter Gebbie 802-533-2984, leave a message.

ADDISON COUNTY

1st cut 4x5 round bales never wet. Good horse & cow hay. 802-948-2627 or 802-558-0166

Certified organic, small square bales always stacked and stored under cover, 35-40lbs/bale. \$4/bale, discounts available for large quantities. 802-989-0781 for inquiries.

Hay for Sale in Addison, VT. Large square bales and small squares. \$50-60 for Large, \$3.50-4.50 for Small. Delivery available. Call Jack 802-989-8968

Hay for sale. \$3.25 bale. 802-377-5455

1st cut 5ft diameter round bales, \$30-\$35. Orwell 802-948-2211

Straw for sale - \$7/bale for 50 or more. \$8/bale for less than 50, \$6/bale for all in the barn, approx. 350. from our winter rye harvest in August. certified organic. Thornhill Farm, Greensboro Bend, 05842, todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com, 802-441-3176

Hay for sale, cows have been sold. 750lb 4x5 round bales stored inside or tube wrapped. Bedding/mulch \$35 Heifer/Beef \$40 Dairy \$55 I will load your truck. In Whiting. Call 802-623-6584

BENNINGTON COUNTY

Corn Silage 1000 ton plus. Haylage 500 ton plus. Round bales 4x4. Square bales small. 802-394-2976

CLASSIFIEDS

CALEDONIA COUNTY

Square baled hay- Top quality, VOF certified organic, generous sized. 1st cut \$4.50/bale, 2nd cut \$5.50/ bale at the barn in Barnet. 802-592-3088

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Round bales for horses. Clean first cut timothy mixed grass, quality net wrapped 4' X 5' bales. Never wet. \$45. each. 802- 879-0391 Westford.

15 large 5x5 round bales mixed grass w/some timothy + clover 800+lbs \$50 ea. call 899-4126

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Good Quality Hay 1c & 2c from western US & Canada. Alfalfa orchard & orchard sweet grass 18 to 20% plus protein large bales & organic by trailer loads. Large or small square bales of straw whole or processed at farm we load on direct delivery by trailer load. Mountain View Dairy Farm 802-849-6266 (6)

LA MOILLE COUNTY

Organic baled straw. \$5.50/ bale. Organic First Cut Hay. \$5.00/bale. Certified

Organic. Valley Dream Farm, Cambridge. 802-644-6598. valleydreamfarm@gmail.com.

ORLEANS COUNTY

Pure alfalfa for sale and also 1st, 2nd and 3rd cut big/ small squares, round bales, wrapped or unwrapped, straw and switch grass. Call Richard at 802-323-3275.

Organic Certified Silage for Sale: We will deliver from our farm or you can come and pick up. Call for prices and delivery charge. 1-802-744-2444 or 802-274-4934 or 802-744-6553.

RUTLAND COUNTY

Good quality 1st and 2nd round bales available, wrapped and dried. Please call 802-446-2435.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

200-4x4 round bales 1st & 2nd cut \$45 each. 802-229-9871

WINDHAM COUNTY

1st cut hay. Good horse hay. \$4.50 bale 802-254-5069

WINDSOR COUNTY

Hay for sale-400 square bales, Reading, Windsor County Vt. \$3.50 per bale at the barn. Call 802-484-7240

4x5 dry round bales \$45.00 delivery available. 802-457-1376

Rolling Meadows Farm: square bales in the field or barn \$4.00. Delivery can be arranged at \$5.50. Very nice hay from fertilized fields in the South Woodstock and Reading area. Call 802-484-5540 or goodfarmvt@gmail.com. Ask for David.

1st. cut dry round bales for sale. Never been rained on, stored under cover. \$50. @ 1st. cut haylage bales for sale. \$45. Rte. 5 Weathersfield Bow 802 -546-4340.

Dry Round Horse Hay, \$50/ Bale. 200 Bales left. Call 802-356-5030.

Poultry

Young Rhode Island Red laying hens for sales -- Just starting to lay, raised on pasture with continuous fresh grass, clean

water and organic grain. Sold for the special price of \$18 each in groups of 5 birds or more. Royalton, VT Call Jinny 802 763 7296 (10)

Sheep

Shetland Sheep for sale: Downsizing our herd so offering this year's ewe and ram lambs, 2 very gentle rams, mature ewes. Colors range from cinnamon to black. Small, hardy sheep with great wool for spinning. We keep ours for pasture improvement and they eat burdock, nettles and thistles. Prices range from \$75 for ram lambs to \$200 for breeding ewes. Call 802-477-2941. (9)

Wanted

Pair of headlocks for cows, round bale feeder, and forks for 7109 loader pin bucket. Also coral panels, three p/h rake and 5 or 6' disc mower.

Hinsdale 603-336-0017. Cattle: two jerseys-crosses heifers breeding age \$1,000 or b/o, three hereford heifers \$500 & up and beef cow \$1,250 or b/o. Hinsdale 603-336-0017. (7)

Hello! I am moving to Vermont from the UK in September and am looking for housing for myself and my 3-year-old daughter. I will be working as a researcher for UVM Extension on a regenerative agriculture project. We would like to be rural but <40 mins drive from Burlington. We enjoy gardening, foraging, walking, climbing, horse-riding, cooking and generally being outdoors! Budget is \$1,500 per month. Please email me on bryony.sands@bristol.ac.uk if you know of anything suitable! (9)

Vegetable & Berry News continued from page 12

interested parties, contact me for further info. High Meadows Farm, Putney. hmfvermont@gmail.com

field's vines really hanging on. The potato barn and the crop's pulp temp both need to be lower as well. We'll start harvesting 10/6 regardless, about usual for

us. I confess to higher-than-normal anxiety because our crop looks like it'll yield so well, we're going to have to run at least 30% more trucks over the same acreage.

Agency Contact Numbers

To help you find the right number for your question, please consult the list below. You are always welcome to call our main line 802-828-2430. We will do our best to route you to person most able to answer your question quickly and accurately.

Program Phone Numbers

Act 250	828-2431
Animal Health	828-2421
Business Development.	828-1619
Dairy	828-2433
Enforcement: Water Quality or Pesticide.	828-2431
Feed, Seed, Fertilizer & Lime.	828-5050
Licensing & Registration	828-2436
Meat Inspection	828-2426
Produce Program	461-5128
Vermont Agriculture & Environmental Lab.	585-6073
Water Quality BMP.	828-3474
Water Quality Grants	622-4098
Water Quality Reports.	272-0323
Weights & Measures	828-2433
Working Lands.	622-4477

(Guildhall) The last two years we've started harvesting fully orange Jack O'Lanterns on 9/1, but we didn't begin pumpkin harvest this year until 9/14. Butternut, Delicata, and Sunshine Kabocha were just as late. The late ripening coupled with the Northeast's generally poor crop has made for a very busy shipping season. Our crop was smaller than it should be, I haven't yet calculated yields, but considering how poorly the cucurbits looked at the beginning of August I'm happy to have anything. Still hasn't frosted here. We don't use herbicide to top-kill potatoes, so without the frost we've still got one

For Immediate Release

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets have received an application for a Milk Handlers license from the following entity: Schreiber Family Farm, LLC of Essex Junction Vermont to process, package, buy and sell, bargain, and transport milk, cultured products, butter, and cheese within the State of Vermont. If anyone has germane information as to why or why not this company should or should not be licensed those comments are to be sent to:

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets
Dairy Section Office
116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

All written comments must be received by November 30, 2021.
At that time the Agency will make a determination as to whether a hearing will be held. If we determine that a hearing is necessary and you wish to attend please write to the above address attention Dairy Section.



VERMONT AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEM PLAN 2021 – 2030:

Racial Equity in the Vermont Food System

Editor's note: This brief is part of the Vermont Agriculture & Food System Plan 2021-2030 submitted to the legislature in January 2021. To read the full plan, please go to <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/document/vermont-agriculture-and-food-system-strategic-plan-2021-2030>

Lead Author: Olivia Peña, Vermont Releaf Collective
Contributing Authors: James A. H. Hafner, Land for Good | Lynn Ellen Schimoler, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

What's At Stake?

Vermont must work towards racial equity in its food system in order to make the food system truly sustainable for everyone. Equity is “the condition that would be achieved when a person’s race... is no longer predictive of that person’s life outcomes.”¹ While food and agriculture can be a source of justice and equity for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities, the

Vermont food system is built on hundreds of years of marginalization and inequity. As a result, BIPOC communities experience entrenched and varied challenges throughout the food system. Vermont must build racial equity into all areas of its food system, including processes, structures, initiatives, and practices. Creating a truly sustainable local food system requires more equitable solutions developed by and for BIPOC communities.

Current Conditions

30 years. Today, many Black people in Vermont—both multi-generation Vermonters and newer community members—still experience marginalization in access to farmland, capital, services, fair wages, food, and other areas of the food system. Since the 1990s, Latinx farmworkers have supported Vermont’s dairy industry and agricultural economy, but some individuals work under unsafe conditions,



with low wages, and/or without full payment. Some Latinx farmworkers lack access to basic human needs like safe housing, health care, and culturally relevant foods. The retention and recruitment of BIPOC living, working, and thriving in the state is critical for Vermont’s future. It is also crucial that Vermont’s food system acknowledge the significant economic impact of BIPOC in the state—through farming, food, labor, entrepreneurship, innovation, and more. This brief focuses on racial equity in three areas of the Vermont food system: farming success, food security, and the workforce.

There are many other fundamental areas of the food system that must be addressed. Ultimately, more focus, financial support, and effort is necessary to conduct a thorough evaluation of the state of racial equity in the Vermont food system and to develop an equitable path forward.

FARMING SUCCESS

Current Conditions

Supporting BIPOC farmers is a key part of achieving racial equity in the Vermont food system, because viable farms are the foundation of a robust and resilient agricultural economy. To establish and grow a farm business requires affordable farmland, access to business networks (e.g., service providers and purchasing managers), flexible capital, and more (see Supporting Future Farmers brief). BIPOC farmers may face challenges accessing these resources due to bias, language and cultural barriers, loan

refusals, and other aspects of structural racism.

Bottlenecks & Gaps

- Many BIPOC farmers are young, beginning farmers renting small parcels and do not own farmland or have a farming background.⁶
- BIPOC may not have access to personal savings, conventional agricultural credit, or alternative capital.
- The diverse aspirations, needs, and strengths of BIPOC farmers may not be well understood by service providers and policymakers.
- Farm services and support do not always reach BIPOC farmers and may not be well-matched to their needs.

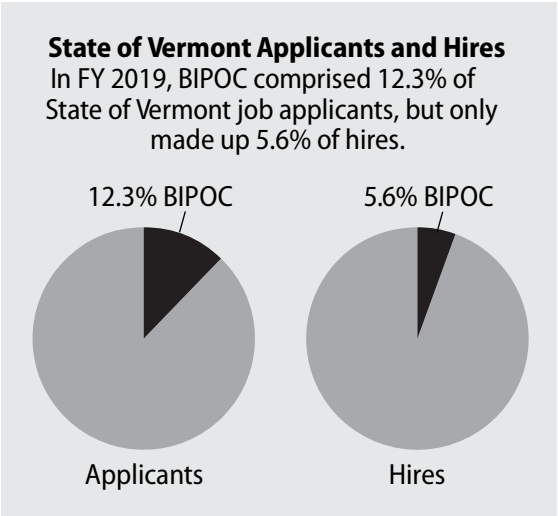
Opportunities

- Farm service provider position(s) focused on BIPOC and located at BIPOC-run Vermont food system organizations would go far toward supporting BIPOC farmers.

continued on page 14

Characteristics of Vermont Producers and Farms by Ethnicity and Race, 2017						
	Hispanic	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	White
Producers						
Number	124	90	32	36	15	12,245
Average Age	50.2	55.3	42.8	47.1	48.1	55.9
Farms						
Number	108	73	29	36	13	6,797
Average Size (acres)	168	144	62	183	110	175
Average Total Value of Production	\$142,806	\$58,260	Not Available	Not Available	\$13,538	\$114,872

Vermont producers are overwhelmingly white (97.7%) and operate approximately 99% of the land in farms according to the 2017 US Census of Agriculture. Only 2.3% of producers on Vermont farms identified as BIPOC. This is below the 6% of BIPOC farmers in New England as a whole, and the 4.87% nationally.



Food System Plan

continued from page 13

- Farm viability programs can diversify their workforce, deepen competencies and relationships, and better align with and leverage the goals and strengths of BIPOC farmers and BIPOC-led groups.
- Alternative farmland access methods and farm financing mechanisms exist that may further support BIPOC farming opportunities and success.

FOOD SECURITY

Current Conditions

Minimal data currently exists about food insecurity rates by race in Vermont. Federal nutrition assistance programs have immigration status requirements that may limit access to nutrition assistance for many new Americans. Black and Indigenous communities in Vermont are more likely to have higher rates of overweight/obesity than other races, and may face higher rates of other chronic diseases, in alignment with national data.

Latinx migrant farmworkers experience higher rates of food insecurity than the state average.

Bottlenecks & Gaps

- Limited outreach and support, stigmatization, and language barriers can restrict BIPOC access to nutrition assistance programs.
- A one-size-fits-all approach to increasing food security does not effectively reach all underresourced BIPOC communities.

- Abenaki food sovereignty initiatives face land access barriers and limited funding support.
- Latinx farmworkers' access to food may be constrained by transportation barriers, hypervisibility yet isolation, and fear of border patrol agents.

Opportunities

- Indigenous food sovereignty projects which advocate for hunting and fishing rights, and partner with institutions to grow ancestral crops, can be built upon with funding and staffing resources.
- Training, education, and a more racially diverse workforce could help service providers serve BIPOC constituents.
- Programs that distribute culturally relevant food and ensure good wages and living conditions for Latinx farmworkers can be expanded and better funded.

BIPOC IN THE WORKFORCE

Current Conditions

A precise picture of the current conditions for the BIPOC labor force in Vermont is not evident at this time. A recently released report reveals some data on race for employees of the State of Vermont (Vermont's largest employer). A similar effort is needed to collect employment data across Vermont and thoroughly evaluate racial equity in the workplace. Vermont must act on the current workforce crisis (see Labor and Workforce brief) and navigate the opportunity to welcome racially diverse people into Vermont.

Glossary of Terms

It is important to note that language and terminology are constantly evolving. Being adaptable and using language preferred by communities of different identities is vital to being inclusive and more equitable.

- BIPOC: an acronym for Black, Indigenous, People of Color, used both as an adjective and a proper noun. This term is considered more inclusive than People of Color alone, and reflects our varied experiences of oppression and marginalization.
- Food sovereignty: "Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and

sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems."

- Latinx: a gender-neutral term for individuals from Latin America or of Latin American descent.
- Structural racism: the normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics—historical, cultural, institutional and interpersonal—that routinely advantage white people while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for BIPOC communities. See Report of the Vermont Racial Equity Task Force definition.
- Unceded lands: land that was never willingly handed over or legally signed away.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is pleased to be able to help you identify upcoming grant opportunities. Please go to <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/calendar> for more information.

Programs Open Year-Round

Farmstead Best Management Practices (BMP) Program

Technical and financial assistance for engineered conservation practices on Vermont farms.

Jenn LaValley

Jenn.LaValley@vermont.gov
(802) 828-2431

Pasture And Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program

Technical and financial assistance for pasture management and livestock exclusion from surface water on Vermont farms.

Kaitlin Hayes

Kaitlin.Hayes@vermont.gov
(802) 622-4112

Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program

Technical and financial assistance for implementing buffers and seeding down critical areas on VT farms.

Sonia Howlett

Sonia.Howlett@vermont.gov
(802) 522-4655

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Implementation costs of vegetated buffers and rental payments for maintained buffers on Vermont agricultural land.

Ben Gabos

Ben.Gabos@Vermont.gov
(802) 461-3814

Phil Wilson

Phillip.Wilson@vermont.gov
(802) 505-5378

January

Community Supported Agriculture Grant

Reimbursement for 80% of the cost of community supported agriculture shares for early childcare providers.

Trevor Lowell

Trevor.Lowell@vermont.gov
(802) 585-9186

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Grants for collaborative projects to benefit multiple fruit, vegetable, honey, maple, hops, Christmas tree, or nursery crop producers or organizations

Gina Clithero

AGR.SpecialtyCrops@vermont.gov
(802) 585-6225

Resources From UVM Extension Ag Engineering Team

By Chris Callahan and
Andy Chamberlin

New Podcast Episodes:

- Growing from 1/4 to 3 Acres at Old Road Farm: EP53
- Custom Beiler/Rimol Greenhouses with Roll-up End Walls: EP54

Listen on your favorite podcast player or visit the website <https://agengpodcast.com>

Spring Cleaning - Farm Cooler Checklist:

The fall may be a good time to clean out that cooler before it gets filled up with storage crops or put away for the season. We highlight several items to inspect and clean when you give your cooler some seasonal attention. <https://go.uvm.edu/coolercleaning>

Our multi-state team is creating and sharing educational resources to improve

produce safety and efficiency on your farm. These SCRUB Twilight Highlight Webinar Recordings are now available.

Visit <https://go.uvm.edu/scrub> click on events to view webinars on the following topics:

- Bins
- Low Cost Packshed
- Wash/Pack Floors
- Wash Water
- Employee Management
- Bubblers

116 State Street *continued from page 2*

Horses also are great companions, accessible to all through 4-H and horse

shows. These striking animals teach our young people responsibility and care of animals. Horses are trained to provide therapy for those who need support. Through

contact and care of horses, thousands of Vermonters have been able to experience relationships with horses, learning life-long skills that benefit us all.

Thanks to Justin Morgan and Figure, the Vermont Morgan got its start in the hills of the Green Mountains. Upon the occasion of Figure's 100th birthday, we thank horses and the people who love them for a wonderful century, contributing to Vermont's past, present, and future.

— Anson Tebbetts,
Secretary, Agency of
Agriculture, Food &
Markets



Secretary Anson Tebbetts celebrating Farm to School Month outside of Burt's Apple Orchard located in Cabot.

CEAP Deadline Approaching Fast

The Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) is open now for General Equipment applications! The CEAP program can provide up to 90% cost-share on new or used innovative equipment that will aid in the reduction of surface runoff of agricultural wastes to State waters, improve water quality of State waters, reduce odors from manure application, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, or reduce costs to farmers. Categories include Precision Agriculture, Conservation Tillage, Cover Crop, Waste Management, Silage Management, and Other Innovative Equipment. Custom applicators, non-profit organizations, groups of farms, and individual farms are welcome to apply.

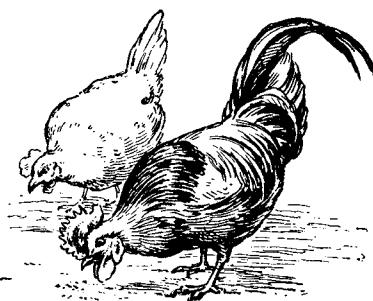
To apply or learn more, visit agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap. Contact: Nina Gage (802) 622-4098, or Nina.Gage@vermont.gov

DEADLINE: November 1, 2021

Vermont Farm Bureau is a grassroots not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to supporting Vermont farm families, agriculture and forestry.

We advocate for public policies that strengthen and grow our agricultural economy and conserve our natural resources.

www.vtfb.org



Vermont Building at the Big E Has Another Successful Year

By Laura Ginsburg, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food
and Markets

The 2021 Big E was an event to remember for Vermont vendors throughout the 17-day fair. Uncertain of what to expect given pandemic circumstances, vendors and staff were prepared to shift strategies during the event as needed. With the support of the Eastern States Exposition and the local health department, the 2021 event was a success!

The Vermont building was filled with returning vendors and some new businesses, including Sugar Bob's Finest Kind maple products, Vermont Concessions apple cider slushies, Eden Iced Cider, and Vermont Teen Challenge's wooden cutting boards. These new vendors bravely jumped into the mix, sold incredible amounts of product – sometimes even running out, and are looking forward to returning. For some long-time vendors, 2021 was the best year yet with higher sales than any other fair.

Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets staff who manage the building will start planning for the 2022 event in December. We are in need of a few additional vendors including apple fritters or apple pie, savory



hot foods like sandwiches or BBQ, and artwork such as photography. Interested businesses will be able to apply for space in early 2022 and can contact Emily Lopuski, Marketing and Export Lead, with any questions at Emily.lopuski@vermont.gov or 802-461-7065.

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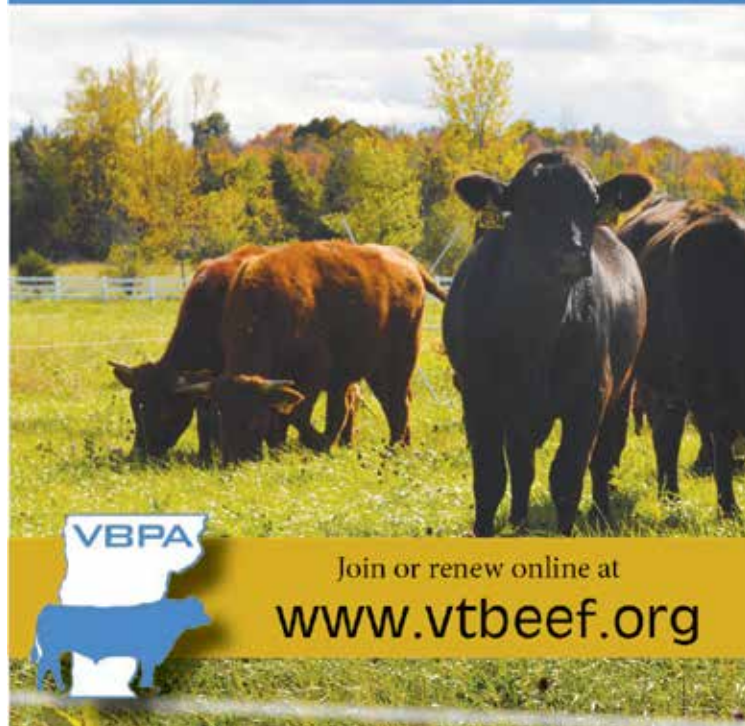
DID YOU KNOW?

Every time you sell live cattle of any age, breed, purpose or number directly to another person, you are responsible for making sure that the \$1-per-head beef checkoff assessment is sent to the Vermont Beef Industry Council.

Visit us at
vtbic.org

Vermont Beef Producers Association

Educating producers
Building cattle markets
Supporting Vermont's beef industry
Representing members statewide



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